

CLASSIFICATION SECRET	
COUNTRY <u>East Germany</u>	REPORT <u></u>
TOPIC <u>Military Activities in Meiningen and Plauen</u>	
EVALUATION <u></u>	PLACE OBTAINED <u></u> 25X1
DATE OF CONTENT <u></u>	
DATE OBTAINED <u></u>	DATE PREPARED <u>7 July 1955</u> 25X1
REFERENCES <u></u>	
PAGES <u>2</u>	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) <u></u> 25X1
REMARKS <u>This is UNEVALUATED Information</u>	

1. On 12 June 1955, the Haupt Kaserne (8302) in Meiningen was occupied to capacity by at least 600 to 800 soldiers including 90 percent wearing black-bordered red epaulets. When the weather was fair, 250 to 300 soldiers almost daily left the installation for the Dreissigacker training area. The soldiers carried rifles, submachine guns, machine guns, targets and firing equipment.¹

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2. On 12 June, the Barbara Kaserne (8301) was occupied not to capacity. Approximately 40 percent of the windows of the installation were lighted at dusk. Traffic to and from the installation decreased also considerably. The unit from the installation practiced in the area between Welkershausen and Melkers. It was rumored that elements were stationed at the Ohrdruf training grounds.²

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3. The post komendatura was transferred to the so-called "Kleines Schloss" opposite Leipziger Hof hotel on Georg Strasse and was subordinate to a komendatura in Suhl. This was concluded from conferences which were held after women in Roemhild had been molested by Soviet soldiers. The conferences were attended by the commanding officer of the district from Suhl, the commanding officer of the Meiningen post, the commanding officer of Haupt Kaserne, the deputy commanding officer of Barbara Kaserne, a representative of the medical commission and a VP representative.³

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4. During the last 2 months, soldiers wearing green epaulets and cap bands were repeatedly observed in Meiningen. It could not be determined that these soldiers were stationed in Meiningen.³

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5. During the last 7 to 8 weeks, 160 to 170 ha had reportedly been cleared in the woods west of the Kauschwitz-Syrau road near the former Plauen airfield and 40 ha of cultivated fields were confiscated. Since the area differs in height between 20 and 30 meters, the area appeared to be not suitable for an airfield.⁴

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. Another source also reported the installation to be occupied to capacity. [REDACTED]
The utilization of the Dreissigacker training area is known.
2. [REDACTED] Comment. The Barbara Kaserne is believed to quarter elements of the 117th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, the bulk of which is carried in the Haupt Kaserne. The area between Welkershausen and Melkers had also previously been utilized by units from this installation.
3. [REDACTED] Comment. Since 1953, independent guard battalions, which are assumed to be directly subordinate to the rifle armies, have been employed in border guard duty. Roemhild is located in the area of Meiningen, where the 63d Guard Bn is assumed to be stationed. The observation of soldiers with green epaulets and cap bands is another indication of the existence of independent guard battalions.
4. [REDACTED] Comment. The improvement and construction of training areas was also observed at other posts.

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